

Message Text

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ORIGIN DLOS-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 SSO-00
NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-12 AGRE-00 AID-05
CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00
DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-01 SOE-02 DOE-11 FMC-01 TRSE-00
H-01 INR-10 INT-05 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSF-01
OES-07 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05 SP-02 SS-15 DOEE-00
/148 R

DRAFTED BY S/AR:AGJAMES/MW
APPROVED BY S/AR:ELRICHARDSON
S/AR:GHALDRICH
D/LOS:ADBERLIND
NEA/INS:JMALLOT

-----109723 040027Z /61

O P 032216Z MAR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 055419

COLOMBO FOR AMBASSADOR WRIGGINS FROM AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON;

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PLOS

SUBJECT: LOS - PRESIDENT AMERASINGHE

CANBERRA FOR AMBASSADOR BREWSTER AND NORMAN WULF; USUN FOR
AMBASSADOR LEONARD

REF: CANBERRA 998 AND 969; USUN 712; CANBERRA 1568
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1. I FOUND THE REPORTS OF YOUR TWO TALKS WITH HARRY
JAYEWARDENE EXTREMELY ILLUMINATING BUT VERY DEPRESSING.
YOU HAVE SPELLED OUT VERY CLEARLY THE DOMESTIC POLITICAL
ELEMENTS WHICH MAKE A FAVORABLE DECISION BY PRESIDENT
JAYEWARDENE ON AMERASINGHE SO DIFFICULT.

2. WE HAVE ASSUMED THAT FERNANDO WOULD NOT WISH TO SEND A MESSAGE INDICATING HIS READINESS TO HAVE AMERASINGHE ON HIS DELEGATION. WE HAVE HEARD THAT FERNANDO TOLD KANAKARATNE THAT HE INTENDED TO STAY OUT OF THIS MATTER ESPECIALLY SINCE IT WAS BEING HANDLED PERSONALLY BY THE PRESIDENT. WE UNDERSTAND, HOWEVER, FROM RELIABLE SOURCE IN HIS LOS SECRETARIAT THAT ZULETA, FERNANDO AND AMERASINGHE ARE DINING TOGETHER MONDAY NIGHT AND THAT ZULETA INTENDS TO URGE FERNANDO TO ADVISE HIS AUTHORITIES IN COLOMBO THAT HE HAS NO OBJECTION TO AMERASINGHE SERVING ON HIS DELEGATION IN SOME CAPACITY. I THINK IT BEST THAT WE LEAVE ANY FURTHER INITIATIVE ON THIS MATTER TO ZULETA. UNFORTUNATELY I HEAR THAT ZULETA IS ABOUT TO LEAVE NEW YORK FOR COLOMBIA BECAUSE OF A DEATH IN HIS FAMILY. WHETHER HE WILL BE BACK IN NEW YORK ON MONDAY IS NOW UNCERTAIN. AS TO THE POSSIBILITY OF INDUCING WALDHEIM TO COMMUNICATE THE AUSTRIAN PRECEDENT TO FERNANDO, AMBASSADOR LEONARD WOULD BE IN A BETTER POSITION THAN I TO GIVE A JUDGMENT. AS USUN NOTES, WALDHEIM WILL ALSO PROBABLY AVOID ANY DIRECT INVOLVEMENT, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF THE SHABBY TREATMENT GIVEN HIS PERSONAL ENVOY ZULETA IN COLOMBO RECENTLY BY THE GSL.

3. FOR AMBASSADOR LEONARD: WOULD YOU PLEASE CONSIDER WHETHER IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE FOR YOU TO TRY TO STIMULATE SOME KIND OF COMMUNICATION FROM WALDHEIM TO FERNANDO.
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4. JAPAN WHICH IS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ASIAN GROUP THIS MONTH PROPOSES TO CONVENE A MEETING OF THAT GROUP ON MARCH 7-8 TO DISCUSS THE PROBLEM OF THE PRESIDENCY OF THE LOS CONFERENCE AND TO CONSIDER A POSSIBLE SUCCESSOR.

5. THE AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY HERE INFORMS US THAT THEIR GOVERNMENT HAS SENT CIRCULAR MESSAGE TO ASIAN CAPITALS TO GET THE THINKING OF THE ASIAN GROUP ON THE PRESIDENCY AND AN ESTIMATE OF WHETHER THE GSL IS LIKELY TO CHANGE ITS MIND ABOUT AMERASINGHE SERVING ON ITS DELEGATION.

6. FINALLY, I CANNOT REFRAIN FROM MAKING A FEW COMMENTS ABOUT SOME OF THE DISPARAGING REMARKS HARRY JAYEWARDENE AND OTHERS HAVE MADE ABOUT AMERASINGHE. WHILE I AM NOT FAMILIAR WITH SOME OF HIS ALLEGED LAPSES OR WAY OF DEALING WITH GSL OFFICIALS, THESE HAVE NO RELEVANCE TO THE LARGER ISSUES OF CONTINUITY OF THE PRESIDENCY AND AVOIDANCE OF DANGEROUS DELAY IN THE CONFERENCE GETTING DOWN TO WORK. IF ONE WANTED TO POINT THE FINGER, IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE TO NOTE THAT AMERASINGHE BEHAVED WITH REMARKABLE RESTRAINT WHEN HAMEED SHOULDERS HIM ASIDE DURING THE FINAL SESSION

OF THE NEXT TO LAST GENERAL ASSEMBLY. THE GSL'S IRRESPON-
SIBLE BEHAVIOR AND REFUSAL TO TAKE A BROAD VIEW HAVE
CREATED A SITUATION WHICH THREATENS TO THROW THE CONFER-
ENCE INTO DISARRAY. THIS WHOLE DISTASTEFUL EXERCISE,
IN WHICH I CAN PERSONALLY ATTEST THAT AMERASINGHE HAS CON-
DUCTED HIMSELF WITH GREAT DIGNITY AND FORTITUDE, HAS
SERIOUSLY ERODED AMERASINGHE'S AUTHORITY.

CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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